

COUNTY OF CORNWALL,

District No. 25.

ST. IVES  
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

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Medical Officer's Annual Report.

1898.

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J. U. WHITE, PRINTER, ST. IVES.

THE ST. IVES  
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors.*

*Gentlemen,*

*I beg to present the following as my Annual  
Report of the St. Ives Urban Sanitary District for  
1898,*

*And remain*

*Yours faithfully,*

*J. M. NICHOLLS,*

*M.O.H.*

*February, 1899.*

**1898.**

**St. IVES URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.**

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.**

|                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Area, 1100 Statute Acres.             | Population 1881, 6,445. |
| Density of population per acre, 5·87. | „ 1891, 6,094.          |
| Emigrants (1898), 41.                 | Immigrants (1898), 142. |
| Estimated population, 1898 ... ..     | 6,865.                  |
| Inhabited houses, 1881 ... ..         | 1,483.                  |
| „ „ 1891 ... ..                       | 1,478.                  |
| „ „ 1898 ... ..                       | 1,658.                  |

|                                                         |                                     |                                |       |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Births Registered, <b>200</b> (males 106 ; females 94). |                                     |                                |       |               |
| Deaths „                                                | <b>132</b> (males 69 ; females 63). | —Natural Increase, <b>68</b> . |       |               |
|                                                         | 1895                                | 1896.                          | 1897. | 1898.         |
| Birthrate per 1000 of population ... ..                 | 28·55                               | 28·55                          | 27·89 | <b>32·81.</b> |
| Deathrate „ „ „ ... ..                                  | 21·16                               | 18·21                          | 17·23 | <b>21·66.</b> |

**Classification of Ages of Deaths.**

|             | 1 yr. & under. | 1 to 5 yrs. | 5 to 15 yrs. | 15 to 25 yrs. | 25 to 65 yrs. | 65 to 80 yrs. | Over 80. | Total. |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------|
| January ... | 6              | 2           | —            | —             | 3             | 2             | 3        | 16     |
| February... | 7              | 5           | —            | —             | 3             | 9             | 2        | 26     |
| March.....  | 2              | —           | —            | 1             | 3             | 4             | 1        | 11     |
| April ..... | 4              | 2           | 1            | —             | 1             | 3             | 3        | 14     |
| May .....   | 2              | 1           | —            | —             | —             | 2             | —        | 5      |
| June .....  | 2              | 2           | —            | —             | 3             | 2             | 2        | 11     |
| July .....  | 4              | —           | —            | —             | 1             | 1             | 4        | 10     |
| August ...  | 5              | 1           | —            | —             | 3             | —             | —        | 9      |
| September   | 7              | —           | —            | —             | 2             | 3             | 1        | 13     |
| October ... | 2              | 1           | —            | —             | 1             | 1             | —        | 5      |
| November.   | 1              | 1           | —            | —             | 1             | —             | 1        | 4      |
| December..  | 1              | 2           | —            | —             | 2             | 3             | —        | 8      |
|             | 43             | 17          | 1            | 1             | 23            | 30            | 17       | 132    |

The birthrate shows a healthy and satisfactory progress.

The deathrate shows an increase, due to some extent to the Influenza epidemic, and occurring especially in old people; and also to an increased mortality in infants—the 19 deaths of infants above last year almost being enough to account for the difference.

Illegitimate births, 2; at the rate of .32 per 1000 of population, or 1 in 100 births.

Illegitimate deaths.—None.

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### Analysis of Deaths.

| 1894. | 1895. | 1896. | 1897. | 1898. |                                                    |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 25    | 14    | 20    | 19    | 25    | deaths were due to diseases of the Nervous System. |
| 15    | 15    | 15    | 16    | 14    | „ „ Circulatory System.                            |
| 24    | 36    | 26    | 21    | 27    | „ „ Respiratory System.                            |
| 10    | 6     | 6     | 4     | 8     | „ „ Alimentary System.                             |
| 2     | 5     | 3     | 7     | 3     | „ „ Genito-Urinary System.                         |
| 8     | 11    | 13    | 8     | 9     | „ „ Lymphatic System.                              |
| 11    | 11    | 0     | 5     | 2     | „ Zymotic diseases.                                |
| 15    | 10    | 11    | 8     | 17    | „ Senile decay.                                    |
| 10    | 10    | 6     | 5     | 16    | „ Marasmus.                                        |
| 6     | 1     | 3     | 7     | 8     | „ Premature births and Malformations.              |
| 7     | 10    | 8     | 6     | 5     | Inquests or Coroner's certificates.                |

**Inquests.**—3 “Natural Causes,” 2 “Accidents.”

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**Zymotic Mortality.**—2 deaths. One Whooping Cough and one Measles.

This is again very favourable, no deaths being due to the more serious preventable diseases.

**Cancer Mortality.**—4 deaths (3 males and 1 female) being a deathrate of .65 per 1,000 of population. This is a low mortality. The ages were: Males—61, 72, and 75 years; and the female 65 years.

**Phthisical Mortality.**—7 deaths (3 males and 4 females) being a deathrate of 1.14 per 1,000 of population. The ages were: Males—23, 23, and 34 years; females—11, 26, 29 and 46 years.

**Respiratory Mortality.**—21 deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia: deathrate 3.44 per 1,000 of population. Children and the aged were the chief victims, the latter especially after Influenza. All except one death occurred during the early months of the year, especially during February.

**Infant Mortality.**—43 deaths : deathrate 7·05 per 1,000 of the population, or at the rate of 215 deaths to 1,000 births.

This shows a large increase, being 19 deaths more than 1897.

This great waste of human life in infancy naturally attracts special attention, and I would like to point to a remedy to check it. But it is difficult in a community where the livelihood of so many parents is precarious. So many infants lack that good start in life which can only come from being nursed by well-nourished, well-fed mothers ; so that far too often they fall victims to malnutrition and wasting disease, or are lacking that stamina which can only carry them through those infantile diseases which they are liable to during the early months of their existence. The healthy appearance and hardiness of those children who survive the first year is very apparent, and this speaks well for the healthiness of the climate for children, especially those who almost live in the open air.

The causes of death were certified as follows :—

| Premature Birth. | Marasmus and Malnutrition. | Convulsions and Teething. | Bronchitis and Pneumonia. | Pyrexia. | Measles. |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| 7                | 18                         | 11                        | 4                         | 2        | 1        |

**Influenza Mortality.**—2 deaths in January, 59 and 68 years ; 2 deaths in February, 74 and 63 years. The deaths were accelerated by Pneumonia and Bronchitis. Influenza was prevalent in January, February, and March, but the cases were not of a serious type, unless complicated.

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## EPIDEMICS.

None of the chief Zymotic diseases. In the spring months Influenza was very general ; the cases were usually mild and without complications, except in those predisposed to pulmonary complaints.

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## NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.

14 cases of infectious diseases were notified, making a rate of 2·29 per 1,000 of population : this is 15 cases below last years' list, and the lowest since the Act was adopted. All the cases recovered.

There were no cases of Smallpox, Diphtheria, Croup, Scarlatina, or Puerperal Fever.

The cases of Typhoid were all of a mild type, and the cause could not be traced to any insanitary defects or nuisances.

**Analysis of Cases Notified.**

|                              | Erysipelas. | Typhoid. | Continued Fever. |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------|------------------|
| January .....                | .....       | .....    | .....            |
| February .....               | .....       | .....    | .....            |
| March .....                  | 1           | .....    | .....            |
| April .....                  | .....       | 1        | .....            |
| May .....                    | .....       | .....    | .....            |
| June .....                   | 2           | .....    | .....            |
| July .....                   | .....       | .....    | 1                |
| August .....                 | 1           | 1        | .....            |
| September .....              | 1           | 1        | 2                |
| October .....                | .....       | 1        | .....            |
| November .....               | 1           | .....    | .....            |
| December .....               | 1           | .....    | .....            |
| Total ... ..                 | 7           | 4        | 3                |
| Rate per 1,000 of population | 1.14        | .65      | .49              |

Total cases notified, 14.

Total rate per 1,000 of population, 2.29.

**HOUSE INSPECTIONS.**

I have made frequent, special and other inspections, and I find a steady progress towards improving the sanitary conditions of houses and courtleges. But many faulty windows, fireplaces, and walls still exist in the older houses.

I had few complaints of existing nuisances. Some houses were found in an insanitary condition, and in all cases except one the necessary repairs were done, and this house was closed.

Old houses have had water-closets added and connected with the main drains, and other Sanitary work done.

**Shipping Inspections.**—All satisfactory.

**THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE TOWN.**

The scavenging and street-sweeping has been done regularly and satisfactorily, and the benefit seems to be much appreciated, especially in the closely built parts of the town. The second covered cart makes it unnecessary to have an uncovered cart used, with its obnoxious overflow of dust.

House refuse is still at times thrown on to the streets, to be removed by the sweepers, whereas it should be kept for the refuse-collecting cart, which regularly visits all accessible parts of the town. But perseverance in notices and warnings will check these relics of not very old customs

The public latrines and water-closets are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

More care should be taken in keeping refuse and manure from remaining uncovered with earth, in some of the fields, and in allowing the collections to be near public paths and highways.

The more efficient drainage and refuse-collecting have considerably lessened the soil pollution from refuse heaps and faultily constructed privies.

**The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops** are regularly inspected, and found well kept.

**The Slaughter Houses** are frequently visited and inspected, and their condition is generally satisfactory.

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### SPECIAL SANITARY WORK.

During the year the ventilating shafts referred to in last year's report have been erected.

The main drains have been extended to High Street, for the more effectual draining of Bedford Road, as well as taking drains which previously went into the river. Virgin Street has also been drained.

The main sewers should be extended in the Stennack, in Bowling Green, Norway Lane, and Burrow Road.

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New water mains have been laid at Bishop's Land and Bedford Road.

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### NEW BUILDINGS.

49 new buildings have been certified as fit for occupation, viz.:—

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5 in Talland Road,     | 2 in Back Street,       |
| 3 in Albany Terrace,   | 1 in Skidden Hill,      |
| 8 in Trenwith Terrace, | 2 at Ayr,               |
| 2 in High Street,      | 1 at Porthminster Hill, |
| 24 in Bedford Road,    | 1 in Norway Lane.       |

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8 old buildings have either ceased to be habitable or been removed.

## WATER SUPPLY.

There is a plentiful supply of good water. It is still necessary to keep all sources of water supply free from surface water after heavy rains ; and all tanks and cisterns should be regularly inspected and cleansed.

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## GENERAL REMARKS.

The year may be classed as on the whole favourable. Although the deathrate is higher than usual, it is high because of the deaths of immature and delicate infants being so numerous, and not because of any special disease being prevalent. The Zymotic deathrate was very low, and not from the chief preventable diseases.

The Zymotic disease and Notification rate was also low, and the cases are of a mild and favourable type.

A general Epidemic of Influenza was prevalent during the early months of the year, but the cases were mild and only fatal when Bronchitis or Pneumonia supervened, which very rarely occurred because of the mildness of the weather.

The Cancer Mortality is low, and the deaths were in persons well beyond the middle period of life.

There has been a steady increase of the population, both by the Births still keeping ahead of the Deaths, and by new people coming into the District. This increase would bring us near to the point of overcrowding had it not been for the continued development of the town. This has added a number of satisfactory houses ; and their prompt occupation points to their having been required. There is still a want of some smaller houses with a moderate rental, for the working classes.

In all progress I would advise that the natural characteristics and beauties of the district be conserved, and, where possible, added to. By the judicious planting of suitable trees much may be done to add to the value of property, and to make the general effect more pleasing. A few trees, planted with discretion, are required in front of some of our Terraces, and along our new roads. Trees in Bedford Road and near the river in front of Trenwith Terrace, would add to the pleasant appearance of these houses, and also to their privacy, as well as giving a pleasant shade, and checking puffing winds and dust.

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## METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY.

| Month.  | Dry Bulb. | Wet Bulb. | Highest Max. | Lowest Min. | Mean Daily Range. | Mean Temperature. | Mean Barometer. | Rainfall in inches. | No. Rainy Days. | Days Sunshine. | Prevailing Wind. |
|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Jan ..  | 48.37     | 46.51     | 54.0         | 41.2        | 5.30              | 48.21             | 30.26           | 1.07                | 8               | 22             | S.S.W.           |
| Feb...  | 46.51     | 43.63     | 56.5         | 35.0        | 6.84              | 46.97             | 30.05           | 1.58                | 16              | 26             | S.W.             |
| March   | 44.76     | 42.83     | 56.4         | 34.9        | 7.22              | 44.11             | 29.93           | 1.30                | 12              | 28             | S.E.             |
| April.. | 51.74     | 48.60     | 57.4         | 39.3        | 8.86              | 50.20             | 29.88           | 2.53                | 12              | 28             | S.W.             |
| May..   | 53.67     | 50.09     | 64.2         | 44.0        | 8.56              | 53.86             | 29.86           | 3.90                | 17              | 27             | W.N.W.           |
| June..  | 58.99     | 54.53     | 69.0         | 47.1        | 10.07             | 57.78             | 30.01           | 1.82                | 8               | 30             | W.               |
| July..  | 63.76     | 57.54     | 72.3         | 51.3        | 10.16             | 62.20             | 30.13           | .42                 | 4               | 29             | W.N.W.           |
| Aug..   | 64.21     | 57.60     | 74.1         | 52.1        | 10.16             | 63.41             | 30.07           | 1.88                | 9               | 26             | S.W.             |
| Sept..  | 58.20     | 54.40     | 75.2         | 51.0        | 7.50              | 60.08             | 30.03           | 1.19                | 10              | 23             | W.               |
| Oct..   | 56.59     | 53.50     | 64.4         | 48.1        | 6.68              | 56.33             | 29.80           | 6.35                | 23              | 13             | S.S.W.           |
| Nov..   | 52.21     | 49.52     | 59.8         | 35.4        | 5.75              | 50.83             | 29.76           | 5.10                | 23              | 14             | S.W.             |
| Dec...  | 48.16     | 45.83     | 57.7         | 40.3        | 5.18              | 49.04             | 30.07           | 4.40                | 25              | 12             | W.               |
| —       | 647.17    | 604.58    | —            | —           | 92.28             | 643.02            | —               | 31.54               | 167             | 280            | —                |
| —       | 53.93     | 50.38     | —            | —           | 7.69              | 53.58             | —               | —                   | —               | —              | —                |

The above temperature records are comparatively favourable, showing a mild winter, and no great heat during the summer.

The relative humidity for the year was 77.

The mean daily range of temperature was highest during June, July, and August (being a fraction above 10 degrees), and this is the season when it is least injurious. The average winter range is below 6 degrees.

The year's rainfall is below the average, being 31.54 inches. The number of rainy days is large, but as many of these days only had a passing shower, the number of days with sunshine was 280.

The prevailing winds were, as usual, westerly. There was a short period of easterly wind at the end of March and early in April, but fortunately at that time the Influenza Epidemic had almost disappeared.

J. M. NICHOLLS,

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Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1899.





1871-1872